



FSU-NEW LANDS: Light showers (10-25 mm) spread across primary spring grain-producing areas in north-central Kazakhstan, favoring immature crops and causing only brief delays in early harvest activities. Reports as of August 23 indicated that grain in Kazakhstan was about 16 percent harvested. In Russia, light to moderate showers (10-27 mm or more) spread from the Urals eastward into Eastern Siberia for the third consecutive week, favoring immature spring grains. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C above normal in Russia and Kazakhstan. In cotton-producing areas of Central Asia, hot, dry weather favored boll maturation and early harvest activities. Reports from Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan indicated the cotton harvest was starting earlier than usual, due to early planting followed by unusually hot weather that persisted during most of the growing season.